

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A *Bacillus* strain has a chromosome with the following modifications: a mutation of a spoIIIE gene which blocks transfer of the prespore chromosome; a mutation which prevents loss of SpoOJ function from blocking sporulation; a first reporter gene dependent on  $\sigma^F$  factor and placed at a location where impaired SpoOJ function leads to increased trapping in the prespore; and a second reporter gene having a promoter which is dependent on  $\sigma^F$  factor and where impaired SpoOJ function leads to reduced trapping in the prespore. The strain is useful in a method of screening for putative antibiotics.